

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Craig in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Craig on receiving this degree and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION AND HONOR OF
THE "WORLD WAR II 70TH ANNIVERSARY AND CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY AND WORLD PEACE EVENT"

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and honor the "World War II 70th Anniversary and Celebration of Diversity and World Peace Event." The ceremony, which took place on November 7, 2015, was a City of Houston Citizenship Month event that was organized by the Southern News Group and International Trade Center. It is estimated that approximately 25,000 people viewed the grand opening ceremony at Minute Maid Park.

The event sought to honor our veterans, mark the anniversary of World War II, and celebrate the diversity of Houston. Specifically, it aimed to convey the message that: "America means freedom like no other country on Earth." The ceremony also included the awarding of medals to World War II veterans in attendance, in honor of their courageous service, and the recognition of U.S. and Chinese pilots who fought in China during World War II for the Allies.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the "WWII 70th Anniversary and Celebration of Diversity and World Peace Event" wonderfully celebrated the vibrancy and diversity of the Houston community. Moreover, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all at the International Trade Center and the Southern News Group, under the leadership of its Chairman Wea Lee, for their hard work in producing this important event. I look forward to future enriching events and efforts.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN M. HUDSON

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the extraordinary public service of Susan M. Hudson, Clerk of the Vermont Public Service Board for 39 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Vermont Public Service Board is Vermont's utility regulatory commission, a quasi-judicial board that supervises Vermont's public utilities: electric, natural gas, telecommunications, and statewide energy efficiency. The Board regulates their rates, quality of service, siting, and financial management. It reviews the environmental and economic impacts of proposals to purchase energy supply or build new energy facilities—including conventional sources and a growing

number of renewable energy plants in an increasingly complex regulatory field. The process the Board administers often requires public hearings, evidentiary hearings, and other forms of inquiry and investigation to ensure that high-quality service is provided by the utilities at rates that are just and reasonable. In short, the Vermont Public Service Board plays a crucial role in the lives of Vermonters. It is a role that it could not have hoped to play well without the sustained energy and focus that Sue Hudson has brought to so many facets of the Board's work.

Sue Hudson has had a remarkable and steady career at the Public Service Board. Her service has spanned the terms of six Vermont governors and 24 different Board members. She kept the wheels of regulation aligned and in good working order through major transitions in the utility industry and the Board structure. Through all of these changes, Sue Hudson remained the public face of the Board to countless citizens, developers, and utility personnel as they visited the Clerk's office to make filings, ask questions, and review documents. While many of the cases she processed were highly contested and involved significant public controversy, Sue Hudson's calm demeanor, fair disposition, and credibility as a Vermonter through and through have been a major asset to the Public Service Board in the performance of its responsibilities.

Sue Hudson is a longtime resident of Hardwick, Vermont, where she is a fully involved member of the community. Her husband, Dan Hudson, looks forward to spending more time with her. She has two wonderful daughters and two grandchildren. As busy as Sue Hudson has been helping Vermonters to navigate the regulatory process, she is also an avid and accomplished golfer and tennis player. And she has always found time to be very involved with her church community.

Through her professionalism and dedication, Sue Hudson has made a significant contribution to civic life in Vermont. On behalf of all Vermonters, I ask the House of Representatives to acknowledge Sue Hudson and her remarkable service to the people of the Green Mountain State.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
SONAL SHAH

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Sonal Shah of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, who peacefully passed away in November after a courageous fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Her life and advocacy were an inspiration. Undeterred by her diagnosis, Sonal lived every day to the fullest and her personal story was a profile in courage.

I was privileged to know Sonal through her work on raising awareness about ALS and her fight for a cure. She would come to Washington to have meetings on Capitol Hill where she would tell her story, share the latest research and inform policy makers of what she and the ALS community needed in funding for public research and to spur private investment. It was during that time I came to know

her wonderful family, including her husband and daughter, who have always been by her side.

Sonal worked tirelessly. She passionately made her case and I was proud to work with her on legislation that will make a positive difference in the lives of many. And that was what was so remarkable about Sonal's fight. Even the most groundbreaking of discoveries would likely have come too late to assist Sonal in her own struggle but she remained committed against the scourge of this disease so that others might have hope. She was a hero in the ALS community and the turnout of love and support at awareness events, at the celebration of her heartfelt book and at laps around the Somerset ball field demonstrated people were compelled by her story.

The fight against this terrible disease was made stronger by having Sonal lead it. She will be missed greatly. I know I will work in Washington with renewed vigor for this cause and will always remember Sonal's strength as we continue to work against ALS.

While we have lost a beloved wife, mother, writer, advocate and friend, let us remember her spirit and perseverance in our own personal struggles and let her determination forever be a source of strength for us all.

TRIBUTE TO TED AND JUDY
KENKEL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ted and Judy Kenkel of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1955.

Ted and Judy's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Danny, Randy, Jan, and Kelly, their grandchildren, and their great-grandsons, Dominik and Declan, truly embodies our Iowa values. It is families like the Kenkel family that make me proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVEN
SPIELBERG IN RECEIVING THE
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the hardworking, kind, and exceptionally creative people of California's 33rd District. I would like to recognize the brilliant work of one of my fantastic constituents: Steven Allan Spielberg, who was recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama.

His films are adored and cherished by billions around the world. With directorial, production and writing credits for incredible films